

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00087 01 OF 02 251026Z
ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
-----038634 251035Z /21

R 250937Z FEB 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2653
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0087

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD FEB 20-26.

BEGIN SUMMARY: EASTERN INSISTENCE ON AN EXPLICIT WESTERN
STATEMENT ACCEPTING THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA DISAGGREGATION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00087 01 OF 02 251026Z

PROPOSAL CONTINUED TO BLOCK A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE
OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA IN THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION
NEGOTIATIONS AS EASTERN REPS REACTED NEGATIVELY TO WESTERN
EFFORTS TO REACH A COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO INFORMAL SESSIONS OF THE VIENNA TALKS
WERE AGAIN HELD THIS WEEK, WITH PARTICIPANTS

CONTINUING TO CONCENTRATE ON AN ATTEMPT TO REACH A PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT FOR THE CONDUCT OF A FURTHER EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF MILITARY MANPOWER DATA. CONSIDERATION OF THIS TOPIC WAS PRECEDED AT THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 21 INFORMAL SESSION BY A GENERAL STATEMENT ON EACH SIDE. THE EASTERN GENERAL STATEMENT CONSISTED OF A LONG CRITIQUE OF WHAT WERE CHARACTERIZED AS A SERIES OF INCREASES IN US MILITARY MANPOWER, ALONG WITH UK AND FRG TROOP INCREASES, IN THE REDUCTION AREA DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS AND AN APPEAL TO THE WEST TO DEMONSTRATE ITS GOOD FAITH BY ACCEPTING THE EASTERN PROPOSAL FOR AN IMMEDIATE MANPOWER FREEZE. THE WESTERN GENERAL STATEMENT CONTRASTED THE SIGNIFICANT MOVE REPRESENTED BY THE WEST'S DECEMBER 1975 PROPOSALS WITH THE PRACTICAL ADHERENCE OF THE EAST TO THE SAME OUTCOME TO THE NEGOTIATIONS IT HAD BEEN SEEKING SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE TALKS.

3. THE REMAINDER OF THE SESSION DEALT WITH THE DECEMBER 14 EASTERN TEXT OF THE ORAL STATEMENTS WHICH EASTERN REPS STILL MAINTAINED MUST BE EXCHANGED PRIOR TO ANY TABLING OF ADDITIONAL EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA. EASTERN REPS INDICATED THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE INCLUSION OF THE DISCLAIMER PROPOSED BY THE WEST TO MAKE CLEAR THAT A FURTHER DATA EXCHANGE WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE OVERALL POSITIONS OF EAST AND WEST IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THEY COULD ACCEPT OTHER CHANGES IN THE TEXT SUGGESTED BY THE WEST PROVIDED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00087 01 OF 02 251026Z

WESTERN PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO THE ORIGINAL EASTERN LANGUAGE MAKING EXPLICIT WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 DATA DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL. CONCERNING THE DISCLAIMER, EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THAT IT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE MUTUALLY AGREED CONCEPT THAT THE ORAL STATEMENTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO A DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA TO BE EXCHANGED. EASTERN REPS ALSO ASKED FOR A FEW LANGUAGE AMENDMENTS OF THEIR OWM.

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SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00087 02 OF 02 251043Z
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2654

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INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0087

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

4. WESTERN REPS EXPLAINED THEIR DESIRE FOR A NO PREJUDICE CLAUSE, NOTING THAT A SIMILAR STATEMENT HAD BEEN PART OF THE ORIGINAL PRESENTATION BY THE EAST OF ITS OCTOBER 25 DATA PROPOSAL. WESTERN REPS WENT ON TO PROPOSE, IN THE INTEREST OF REACHING PROMPT AGREEMENT ON THE FULL TEXT OF THE ORAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00087 02 OF 02 251043Z

STATEMENTS AND CONTINGENT UPON AGREEMENT ON OTHER OUTSTANDING POINTS, A COMPROMISE REVISION OF THE ORIGINAL EASTERN WORKING OF THE WESTERN STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT TO THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL. IN ACCORDANCE WITH NAC GUIDANCE, THE COMPROMISE WESTERN WORDING CLEARLY REFERRED BACK TO A PREVIOUS CITATION BY THE EAST OF THAT PROPOSAL, BUT WITHOUT MAKING SPECIFIC MENTION OF IT BY DATE. THE INITIAL EASTERN REACTION TO THIS LATEST WESTERN SUGGESTION WAS TO BRAND IT A STEP BACKWARDS. EASTERN REPS ARGUED THAT THEY HAD SHOWN GREAT FLEXIBILITY AS REGARDS THE DATA EXCHANGE ISSUE AND STATED THAT IT WAS NOW UP TO THE WEST TO RECIPROCATE. IT WAS AGREED TO RETURN TO THE SUBJECT

AT AN INFORMAL SESSION SET FOR FEBRUARY 23.

5. AT THE FEBRUARY 23 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS CONTENDED THAT THE NEW WORDING PROPOSED BY THE WEST TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF WESTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE EAST'S OCTOBER 25 PROPOSAL WAS INACCURACT AND MISLEADING AND THAT THE WEST SHOULD ACCEPT THE ORIGINAL EASTERN LANGUAGE. WESTERN REPS MADE THE CASE THAT THEIR PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE SHOULD SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF BOTH SIDES. IF EASTERN REPS COULD NOT ACCEPT IT, THEN IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON THEM TO DEVISE A NEW, MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE. EASTERN REPS REJOINED THAT THEY HAD MADE ALL THE IMPORTANT MOVES IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT ORAL STATEMENTS SO FAR AND THAT WESTERN REPS SHOULD THUS TAKE THE NEXT STEP. EASTERN REPS ALSO MAINTAINED THAT THE WESTERN NO PREJUDICE CLAUSE WAS SUPERFLUOUS AS THERE WAS ALREADY A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS CONCEPT WOULD APPLY TO ANY FURTHER DATA EXCHANGE. THE SESSION ENDED WITH AGREEMENT PRIMARILY TO CONCENTRATE ONCE MORE ON THE DATA ISSUE AT THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00087 02 OF 02 251043Z

6. GDR REP OESER DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE FEBRUARY 23 PLENARY MEETING. HIS SHARPLY WORDED PRESENTATION STRESSED THE NEED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO PROCEED FROM THE FACT THAT MILITARY EQUALITY ALREADY EXISTED IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND, IN THIS REGARD, INCLUDED THE FIRST CLEAR EASTERN CLAIM THAT THERE WAS APPROXIMATE EAST-WEST EQUALITY IN ARMAMENTS IN THE AREA. OESER'S STATEMENT CALLED FOR WESTERN AGREEMENT TO THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, SOUGHT TO REFUTE WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC ARGUMENTS, MADE THE CLAIM THAT A FURTHER DATA EXCHANGE WOULD PROVE WESTERN FIGURES FOR EASTERN FORCES WERE UNREALISTIC, AND STRONGLY ATTACKED WESTERN FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE NEUTRON WARHEAD.

7. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT AT THE REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN DID NOT CITE OESER'S CRITICISM OF WESTERN FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY A PLANTED QUESTION FROM A GDR CORRESPONDENT ABOUT NATO FORCE INCREASES AND THE NEUTRON WARHEAD, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN SUBSEQUENTLY DEVELOPED THE THEME AT LENGTH AND WITH GREAT VIGOUR.

8. AT ITS FEBRUARY 22 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED THE TEXT OF AN INTERIM WRITTEN REPORT TO THE NAC ON THE STATUS OF EFFORTS BY WESTERN NEGOTIATORS TO OBTAIN EASTERN AGREEMENT TO A FURTHER EAST-WEST DATA EXCHANGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NAC GUIDANCE OF FEBRUARY 6. RESOR

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